

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. **(Currently Amended)** A method for transmission of messages, comprising:
transmitting a message from a first message service provider to a second message service provider, wherein the message contains at least a first header field which includes a reference to a specific network element of the first message service provider, which was involved in processing the message,
evaluating the message at the second message service provider, and
transmitting, **via an interface connecting the first and second message service provider**, a confirmation message from the second message service provider **addressed** directly to the specific network element of the first message service provider as identified by the first header field.

40. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, further comprising
transmitting the message from the second message service provider to a network element outside a service environment with the message containing at least a second header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the second message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

41. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 40, wherein the message, on transmission from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment contains the first header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

42. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 40, further comprising

transmitting the message from the network element outside the service environment back via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with the reference(s) set from the first and/or second header field being resolved in each return transmission step.

43. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the reference further includes a specification of a return path.

44. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the transmitted message is evaluated after arrival at the second message service provider from a switching node.

45. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the functionality of the message is evident from at least one header field.

46. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, to which network element in the second message service provider the message will be relayed.

47. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 41, wherein a switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element.

48. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 41, wherein a switching node is integrated into a relaying means.

49. **(Currently Amended)** A system for transmission of messages, comprising:
a first message service provider configured to transmit a message to a second message service provider, wherein the message contains at least a first header field which includes a reference to a specific network element of the first message service provider, which was involved in processing the message,
a device for evaluating the message at the second message service provider, and
a network element of the second message service provider is configured to directly transmit, **via an interface connecting the first and second message service provider**, a confirmation message **addressed** directly to the specific network element of the first message service provider as identified by the first header field.

50. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the second message service provider is configured to transmit the message to a network element outside a service environment, the message containing at least a second header field which features a reference to at least one
network element of the second message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

51. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 50, wherein the message, on transmission from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment, contains the first header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

52. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 50, wherein the network element outside the service environment back is configured to transmit the message via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with the reference(s) set from the first and/or second header field being resolved in each return transmission step.

53. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the reference further includes a specification of a return path.

54. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein a switching node is configured to evaluate the message after arrival at the second message service.

55. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the at least one required function of the message is evident from at least one header field.

56. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with one of the Claims 54, wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, the network element in the second message service provider to which the message will be relayed.

57. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with one of the Claims 54, wherein the switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element.

58. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with one of the Claims 54, wherein the switching node is integrated into a relaying means.

59. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the system includes a mobile radio terminal.

60. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, further including using a mobile radio terminal.

61. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the system includes a Transceiver.

62. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, further including using a Transceiver.